

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 TRSE-00 AGR-10

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /061 W
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R 241142Z MAR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1795

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 315B

STATE PASS INTERIOR

USDOC FOR CAGNE (ROBERTSON)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, ECRE, IZ

SUBJECT: US VISIT OF IRAQI IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE DELEGATION

REF: ELLICOTT MACHINE CORPORATION CABLE TO USINT
MARCH 11 AND LETTER OF MARCH 12.

1. SUMMARY. SIX MAN IRAQI BUYING DELEGATION LED BY
UNDERSECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION WILL VISIT USA
APRIL 18 - 26 AND AGAIN MAY 9. GROUP REQUESTS BRIEFING
BY US DEPT OF INTERIOR AND FACILITATION OF VISIT TO LAND
RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN ARIZONA. INFORM IRAQI INTERESTS
SECTION (IRAQINT) WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. SIX MAN IRAQI BUYING DELEGATION HEADED BY DR.
OMAR RADHID GARDI, UNDER-SECRETARY (I.E. NUMBER ONE
CIVIL SERVANT) OF GOI MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION, WILL
VISIT BALTIMORE APRIL 18 FOR TALKS WITH ELLICOTT
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MACHINE CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL (TELEPHONE 301-837-7900)

ABOUT PURCHASE OF DREDGING EQUIPMENT. OTHERS IN DELEGATION INCLUDE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAMOUDI ALI ABDUL RAHMAN AND CHIEF ENGINEERS OF MINISTRY'S PLANNING AND ELECTRICAL DIVISIONS, MINISTRY'S CHIEF ACCOUNTANT AND SENIOR ENGINEER OF IRAQI PORT ADMINISTRATION. GROUP ALSO VISITING FIRMS IN WEST GERMANY, HOLLAND AND JAPAN BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION ON PURCHASE OF DREDGING EQUIPMENT.

3. GOI CONTACT WITH ELLICOTT WAS ARRANGED BY JAPANESE FIRM NISSHO-IWAI (NI). ACCORDING LOCAL NI MANAGER, ELLICOTT OFFERING TO SUPPLY 12 DEREDGES (FOR ABOUT 10 MILLION DOLLARS) TOO LARGE FOR NI TO MANUFACTURE. NI BIDDING SUPPLY ADDITIONAL 17 SMALLER DREDGES.

4. SECOND-RANKING MEMBER OF DELEGATION (DG HAMOUDI ALI) TOLD USINT COMATT MARCH 19 THAT PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF US VISIT IS FOR DISCUSSION WITH ELLICOTT MACHINE CORPORATION IN BALTIMORE AND WITH WICHITA AND NASHVILLE OFFICES OF WEST GERMAN FIRM FERROSTAHL-- TWO OF FOUR CONTENDERS TO SUPPLY DREDGES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT.

5. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, GROUP WISHES VISIT CERTAIN US DEPT OF INTERIOR LAND RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN ARIZONA SUGGESTED BY ELLICOTT. GROUP WANTS MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF TIME N USA TO LEARN OF RECENT ADVANCES IN US TECHNOLOGY IN FIELD OF LAND RECLAMATION AND DRAINAGE. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY FURTHER PROGRAM OR SUGGESTIONS US DEPT OF INTERIOR MIGHT MAKE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) STATE INFORM IRAQINT (AMIN HASSAN) OF VISIT; (B) INTERIOR CONTACT ELLICOTT IN REGARD PROPOSED ARIZONA VISIT. FYI: GROUP LEADER DR. OMAR RASHID GARDI IS US-EDUCATED (COLORADO). BELIEVE THIS GROUP WOULD BE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR ANY ASSISTANCE INTERIOR COULD GIVE IN WORKING OUT FULL PROGRAM WHICH WIL REINTRODUCE IRAQI SPECIALISTS TO US TECHNOLOGY AFTER SEVERAL YEARS SLIPPAGE DUE TO POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. GOI INVESTMENT IN IRRIGATION SECTOR WILL BE VERY GREAT IN NEXT FIVE YEARS. OPPORTUNITIES UNCLASSIFIED

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CLEARLY EXIST FOR MASSIVE US EXPORTS, TRAINING OF IRAQIS AND INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. USINT RECOMMENDS THIS VISIT BE GIVEN BLUE-RIBBON TREATMENT. LOWRIE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IRRIGATION, TRADE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAGHDA00315
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750112-0283
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750323/aaaaausk.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US VISIT OF IRAQI IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE DELEGATION
TAGS: OVIP, ECRE, IZ
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006